

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 PA-01 PRS-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7323

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN REACTION TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S
STATEMENT ON GAS PIPELINE

REF: STATE 310213

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC GOM REACTION SO FAR ON THE
STATEMENT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER.

2. PRESS REACTION HAS GENERALLY BEEN CONFINED TO STRAIGHT
REPORTING OF HIS STATEMENT WITH THE GENERAL CONCLUSION
THAT THE ANTICIPATED AGREEMENT HAS FAILED. THE MORE
NATIONALISTIC NEWSPAPER ARTICLES TAKE OFFENSE AT WHAT UNO
MAS UNO CALLS A "VEILED THREAT" OR EL SOL "INOPPORTUNE
AND OFFENSIVE" REMARKS. EL UNIVERSAL EDITORIALIZED THAT
SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ARE "NEW U.S. PRESSURE ON MEXICO'S
NATIONAL INTERESTS."

3. 4 JANUARY HEADLINED ARTICLE BY FERNANDEZ PONTE,
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, IN EXCELSIOR QUOTES FRANK
SHAEFFER-CORONA, WHOM HE CLAIMS IS A CHICANO U.S. ELECTED
OFFICIAL, TO THE EFFECT THAT SCHLESINGER'S ATTITUDE IS A
FORM OF U.S. BLACKMAIL. THE U.S. WILL AGREE TO THE GAS
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PRICE SET BY MEXICO IF THE GOM ACCEPTS AND SUPPORTS
PUBLICLY PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLANS TO SOLVE THE UNDOCU-
MENTED WORKERS' PROBLEM. UNO MAS UNO ON 4 JANUARY REPORTS
FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL LOOK
FOR OTHER ENERGY MARKETS IF MEXICO DOES NOT REDUCE ITS
NATURAL GAS PRICE. IT ALSO QUOTES MISS SALLY SHELTON OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AS SAYING "MONDALE'S UPCOMING TRIP

TO MEXICO WILL STRESS ENERGY ISSUES, AS WELL AS TRADE MATTERS."

4. LACK OF STRONG GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA REACTION MAY BE DUE TO STATEMENT OCCURRING DURING MEXICAN YEAR-END VACATION FROM 17 DECEMBER THROUGH 2 JANUARY WHEN MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE ON VACATION. WE EXPECT CONTINUING GOM PRESS REACTION AND WILL REPORT ON IT AT A LATER DATE.
LUCY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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